United Nations A/BUR/53/SR.1

General Assembly
Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
3 December 1998

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 September 1998, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Opertti-Badán (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Uruguay)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1)

Section I: Introduction

1. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to its rules of procedure. It also took note of paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section II. Organization of the session

Paragraph 5 (General Committee)

2. *The Committee took note of the decision and resolutions referred to in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 6 to 9 (Rationalization of work)

3. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 6, 7 and 9 and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraph 10 (Closing date of the session)

4. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the fifty-third session should recess on Friday, 11 December 1998 and that the First, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth), Third and Sixth Committees should complete their work by Friday, 20 November, the Second Committee by Friday, 27 November and the Fifth Committee by Friday, 4 December 1998.*

Paragraphs 11 to 13 (Schedule of meetings)

5. *The Committee decide to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees, including informal meetings, should be adjourned by 6 p.m., and that no meetings should be held on weekends. It also decided to recommend that that cost-saving measure should also apply, for the remainder of 1998, to meetings on the calendar of conferences and meetings.*

6. *The Committee further decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees and should remind delegations of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.*

7. **The Chairman** urged all delegations to comply with the suggestion made at previous sessions that each delegation should designate one of its members to be present at the scheduled starting time of meetings.

Paragraphs 14 to 17 (General debate)

8. *The Committee took note of paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, drew the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 15 and endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraph 16.*

9. **The Chairman** urged representatives, in view of the large number of speakers already inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate, to take the floor in the order in which they appeared on that list. Those unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for the meeting in question.

10. *The Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly that the procedure outlined in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's memorandum should also apply during the fifty-third session.*

Paragraphs 18 to 20 (Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements)

11. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 and to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto for appropriate action in plenary meeting and in the Main Committees. It further decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to five minutes.*

Paragraph 21 (Records of meetings)

12. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and, in that connection, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the practice of not reproducing statements made in a Main Committee in extenso should be maintained for the fifty-third session.*

Paragraph 22 (Seating arrangements)

13. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 23 (Concluding statements)

14. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for full implementation of paragraph 17 of General Assembly decision 34/401.*

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Paragraphs 24 to 27 (Resolutions)

15. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.*

Paragraphs 28 to 30 (Documentation)

16. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401, to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/206 C. The Committee also decided to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241.*

Paragraphs 31 to 34 (Questions related to the programme budget)

17. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 and to the observations contained in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 35 and 36 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

18. **Mr. Grainger** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported the recommendation in paragraph 35 of the Secretary-General's memorandum on the understanding that the necessary flexibility would apply in following the general practice.

19. *The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 37 and 38 (Special conferences)

20. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraph 39 (Meetings of subsidiary organs)

21. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter dated 19 August 1998 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/53/298) informing him that the Committee had recommended, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that a number of subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the main part of the fifty-third session. Authorization was sought for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and for the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

22. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to meet during the main part of the fifty-third session.*

Section III. Observations on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly

Paragraphs 40 and 41

23. *The Committee decided to draw the Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 40 and 41 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda

Paragraphs 42 to 46

24. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except insofar as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

25. *The Committee decided to take note of the suggestions made in paragraph 43 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

26. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, concerning item 62 of the draft agenda entitled "The situation in Burundi". A communication had been received from Burundi requesting the deletion of that item.

27. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it delete item 62 from the draft agenda of the fifty-third session.*

28. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 45 of the Secretary-General's memorandum concerning item 89 of the draft agenda. The Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had requested that the wording of that item be changed to reflect recent resolutions of the Special Committee.

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the title of item 89 should read "Economic*

and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories".

30. **The Chairman** said that the sponsors had requested that item 168, entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide", be included as a sub-item under item 46 ("Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights").

31. **Mr. Rosenstock** (United States of America) said that two separate events should be held in order to commemorate the Convention and the Declaration properly.

32. **Mr. Abelian** (Armenia) said that that was the sponsors' intention.

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 168 should be included as a sub-item under item 46.*

Paragraph 47 (inclusion of items)

Items 1 to 6

34. **The Chairman** said that since items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with, he would take it that there was no objection to their inclusion in the agenda.

35. *It was so decided.*

Items 7 to 91

36. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 7 to 91 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 92

37. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that, following consultations with the Governments of Madagascar and France, his delegation wished to propose that consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" be deferred to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the positions which those Governments might take on the issue at that time.

38. **Mr. Henze** (Germany) supported the proposal by the representative of Senegal.

39. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session and that it should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Item 93

40. **Mr. Fillippi Balestra** (San Marino), referring to item 93, entitled "Question of East Timor", said that the report of the Secretary-General to be issued shortly indicated that, at the meetings held under his auspices between Portugal and Indonesia, substantive issues had been identified and discussed, including the possibility of special status for East Timor. It was hoped that an agreement would be reached before the end of 1998. In order to preserve an atmosphere conducive to continued progress in the talks, his delegation was therefore proposing that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

41. **Mr. Maidin** (Brunei Darussalam) supported the proposal by the representative of San Marino.

42. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session and that it should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Items 94 to 159

43. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 94 to 159 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 160

44. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, of which he was Chairman, had requested the inclusion of the item entitled "Bethlehem 2000" in the agenda of the fifty-third session. For nearly 2000 years, the town of Bethlehem, in Palestine, had been a symbol of peace, reconciliation and hope for a better future for all humankind. The Palestinian Authority had decided to launch a "Bethlehem 2000" project to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. Some 2 million visitors were expected and the project would involve cultural activities, modernization of the town's infrastructure, improvements in basic social, health and security services, preservation of Palestine's rich heritage and the creation of tourist facilities.

45. It was encouraging to note that the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank had already undertaken related projects. The United Nations as a whole should seize the opportunity afforded by that historic occasion to advance the cause of peace by including the item in question in the agenda of its fifty-third session.

46. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 160 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 161

47. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Zimbabwe had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

48. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mapuranga (Zimbabwe) took a place at the Committee table.*

49. **Mr. Mapuranga** (Zimbabwe) said that, as a member of the World Solar Commission, his delegation was requesting the inclusion of a new item, entitled "World Solar Programme 1996–2005", in the agenda of the fifty-third session. Promoting the use of renewable energy, particularly solar energy, had been linked with the broader goal of achieving sustainable development. The Commission had adopted a 10-year Programme, but it could not be carried out in isolation from other efforts. The General Conference of UNESCO had adopted a resolution in support of the Programme and the General Assembly should do likewise. The item should be dealt with in plenary meeting, as it required a policy decision.

50. *Mr. Mapuranga (Zimbabwe) withdrew.*

51. **Mr. Chkheidze** (Georgia) said that, as a member of the World Solar Commission, his delegation attached great importance to the inclusion of the proposed item. In its five-year review of the implementation of *Agenda 21*, the General Assembly had recognized the need for further promotion of renewable energy.

52. **Mr. Qin Huasun** (China) said that solar energy was an important renewable energy source which produced little or no pollution. His delegation therefore strongly supported the inclusion of the item.

53. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 161 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Items 162 to 165

54. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 162 to 165 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 166

55. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that, bearing in mind the principles of universality, justice and solidarity among nations, Senegal fully supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third session. The Republic of China was entitled to recognition as an integral part of the international community. A founding member of the United Nations, it had been a permanent member of the Security Council until 1971 when, under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), it had lost its status as a Member State and a permanent member of the Security Council. The world had changed a great deal since then. The Republic of China had built a society which ensured respect for human rights and democracy, the rule of law and the principles governing international relations. The first democratic elections, held in March 1996, had been a significant democratic gain.

56. The Republic of China on Taiwan had achieved economic and commercial might and it fulfilled the conditions of a State as defined in constitutional law: it had its own territory and population and wielded institutional power within well-identified, recognized borders. It exercised its power to conclude international treaties, and was therefore, *de jure* and de facto, a subject of international law. It maintained diplomatic relations with nearly 30 States Members of the United Nations and economic and commercial relations with 120 nations throughout the world. It was a member of 14 intergovernmental organizations and over 900 non-governmental organizations. It also had observer status in the World Trade Organization and now met the conditions for full membership.

57. It was time to recognize the legal, political and economic reality of the Republic of China on Taiwan, a democratic, peaceful country which respected human rights and freedoms and stood ready to contribute to the overall progress of humankind, in solidarity and cooperation with all peace- and justice-loving nations. Taiwan had immense potential as a trading nation and its stabilizing role in the recent financial crisis in Asia had been significant. Taiwan also provided assistance to dozens of developing countries. Its vast experience in science and technology and its expertise in agriculture and public works should be placed at the service of the international community. Senegal therefore called for a review of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) to enable the Republic of China to resume its rightful place in the United Nations system.

58. Senegal's request was based on the principles of law and equity and should not be construed as interference in the internal affairs of any State. It was a sovereign request from a sovereign State which was anxious to preserve peace, friendship and solidarity among the peoples and nations of South-East Asia and of the world.

59. **Mr. Qin Huasun** (China) said that, at the instigation of the Taiwan authorities and in disregard of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the Committee's decisions over the past five years, a handful of countries had once again raised the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" in a brazen

attempt to challenge General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The aim was to split a sovereign State and create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" at the United Nations; that constituted a grave encroachment on China's sovereignty and brutal interference in its internal affairs.

60. It was well known that Taiwan had been an inalienable part of China since ancient times. The 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation had reaffirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. Currently, 162 countries maintained diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and they all recognized that its Government was the sole lawful Government representing China in its entirety and that Taiwan was an inalienable part of China. In the nearly 50 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, there had been great changes both in the world situation and in China, including Taiwan. However, no such change could alter the fact that Taiwan was a province of China and that China exercised sovereignty over Taiwan.

61. In 1971, the General Assembly had adopted by an overwhelming majority resolution 2758 (XXVI) restoring the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations and expelling the Taiwan authorities from the Organization. Without expelling Taiwan from the United Nations, it would have been impossible to resolve the question of China's representation at the United Nations and to give expression to the "one China" principle. The resolution had justly, comprehensively and definitively settled the question of China's representation at the United Nations, in the spirit of the Charter. The so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" was being put forward in an attempt to strip the resolution of its essence, negate the "one China" principle and create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan"; that attempt went against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States and was doomed to failure.

62. Under Article 4 of the Charter, only sovereign States were entitled to membership in the United Nations. As a province of China, Taiwan was in no position to join the United Nations, because, according to the principles of international law, the sovereignty of a State was indivisible. In the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Government of the People's Republic of China represented the Chinese people as a whole, including the population of Taiwan. The question of Taiwan was not analogous to the situation of Germany or Korea after the Second World War, and the so-called principle of "parallel representation" could not be applied to it. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) conformed to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and, above all, reflected the actual situation in China.

63. The question of Taiwan was a purely internal matter for China and brooked no interference by any country or individual under any pretext. The settlement of the question of Taiwan and the reunification of the motherland were the solemn mission of all the Chinese people, including the population of Taiwan. Over a decade previously, Mr. Deng Xiaoping had proposed a policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" for resolving the Taiwan question. On 1 July 1997, the concept of "one country, two systems" had been successfully introduced in Hong Kong, and on 20 December 1999, China would resume sovereignty over Macao. The Taiwan question would also be resolved; it was only a matter of time. In recent years, through the joint efforts of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, marked progress had been made in exchanges between the two sides. Indirect trade had been growing rapidly and investment in the mainland by Taiwan business people had increased steadily. Economic, trade and cultural exchanges were closer than ever. Raising the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" was a move to severely sabotage the process of China's peaceful reunification.

64. Under the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" and the eight-point proposal of President Jiang Zemin for developing relations across the Strait and promoting peaceful reunification, the various departments of his Government had always safeguarded the interests of Taiwan's population. China's diplomatic missions worked to protect the interests of overseas Chinese, including those on Taiwan. Needless to say, the fundamental guarantee of the dignity and interests of the Taiwan compatriots lay in the reunification of China.

65. Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs were the basis of inter-State relations and cooperation and an integral part of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. China attached importance to developing relations with all States Members of the United Nations, including those with which it did not have diplomatic relations, and it stood ready to work for friendly relations and cooperation with all countries of the world, based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. There were no conflicting fundamental interests between China and the countries raising the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" and China had never done anything detrimental to those countries' interests, but those countries had severely damaged China's interests by supporting the separatist activities of the Taiwan authorities. China hoped

that they would no longer be taken advantage of by the Taiwan authorities and would withdraw their proposal.

66. His Government's firm position of safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity had the support of the vast majority of countries. For five consecutive years, the General Committee had refused to include the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" in the agenda of the General Assembly, thereby demonstrating the determination of the vast majority of Member States to uphold the Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

67. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Burkina Faso, Gambia, Malawi, Solomon Islands and Swaziland had asked to participate in the discussion of item 166 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

68. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Jagne (Gambia), Mr. Rubadiri (Malawi), Mr. Horoi (Solomon Islands) and Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland) took places at the Committee table.*

69. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Argentina, Georgia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Paraguay and Sri Lanka had also asked to participate in the discussion of item 166. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to their requests.

70. *It was so decided.*

71. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Petrella (Argentina), Mr. Chkheidze (Georgia), Mr. Qadhe (Iraq), Mr. Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awadi (Kuwait), Mr. Saguier Caballero (Paraguay) and Mr. de Saram (Sri Lanka) took places at the Committee table.*

72. **Mr. Dlamini** (Swaziland) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda. The unparalleled political and economic development of the Republic of China on Taiwan had given rise to a strong desire on the part of its people to participate in international life. The Republic of China was becoming increasingly frustrated that its population of 21 million people was being denied the fundamental right to participate in international political, economic and cultural activities under the auspices of a world body of which it had been a founding member. The Kingdom of Swaziland had developed strong ties with the Republic of China over the years and it regretted its exclusion from the international community.

73. The Republic of China accepted the fact that, within overall Chinese boundaries, there were two political entities which exercised jurisdiction over two separate parts of China. It did not intend to engage in a debate about supremacy with the People's Republic of China in the international arena; instead, it was concerned about regaining its international status so that it could coexist peacefully in the community of nations on an equal footing with the People's Republic of China. Restoring its membership in the United Nations would ease regional tensions and facilitate a peaceful settlement of the question of Taiwan. In the post-cold war era, the international community could no longer ignore the Republic of China. While international dialogue and economic cooperation had become major trends in the new world order, global problems were multiplying and international cooperation was required to overcome them; the participation of every nation was crucial. It was therefore in the interests of the entire international community that the Republic of China should participate in and contribute to cooperation on international issues.

74. The Republic of China hoped to restructure the political relationship across the Taiwan Strait, in keeping with the principles of democracy, freedom and equitable prosperity. To accomplish that goal, the fundamental rights of the Republic of China in the United Nations must be restored. It was reassuring that the United Nations had dealt with similar cases in the past and had admitted divided nations to membership, thereby demonstrating that such countries could have equal and parallel participation in the international community. That could, in turn, help to east tensions and create favourable conditions for the settlement of their differences.

75. His delegation noted that, under Article 23 of the Charter, the Republic of China was still recognized as one of the founding members of the United Nations. In the spirit of genuine democratic principles, the United Nations should review General Assembly resolution 27/58 XXVI. The Republic of China had made it clear that it did not intend to challenge the authority of the People's Republic of China or its seat at the United Nations, but rather to create a climate conducive to cooperation with the People's Republic of China with a view to the eventual reunification of China.

76. **Mr. Rubadiri** (Malawi) said that, since 1949, the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the mainland had, for all practical purposes, existed as two separate, sovereign entities. The Republic of China, a signatory of the Charter of the United Nations, had participated in the work of the Organization from its founding in 1945 until 1971, when the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI). The Republic of China on Taiwan had steadily developed and consolidated the attributes of statehood and had become a major global

economic power which provided aid and other technical assistance to developing countries through bilateral arrangements as well as regional and multilateral institutions. It had evolved a truly democratic system of governance and had established formal diplomatic relations with a sizeable number of States Members of the Organization. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) stood in the way of long overdue recognition of the Republic of China on Taiwan by the United Nations, and flimsy legal arguments continued to be advanced in an effort to block the statehood of the Republic of China.

77. The Government of the Republic of China had made it clear that it no longer claimed to represent the whole of China, only the 21.8 million people in the territory under its jurisdiction. At the same time, it was committed to a peaceful resolution of the current division of China. His delegation therefore believed that parallel representation for both Governments at the United Nations was most likely to advance progress towards a lasting solution. Over the years, new States had emerged unexpectedly, and their creation had been welcomed by the United Nations as progress towards international peace. In that spirit, his delegation favoured the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.

78. **Mr. Jagne** (Gambia) said that the Republic of China had existed as a separate entity since time immemorial. Gambia shared the view that Taiwan had no need to declare independence because it was already known as the Republic of China. As one of the major economies of the world and a leader in information technology, it had much to share with the rest of the international community, both developed and developing, especially at a time of economic and financial upheaval. In that context, the exclusion of the Republic of China from world affairs was unwise.

79. The Republic of China was proud of its achievements in the area of democracy and human rights and was totally committed to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In accordance with the principle of universality, his Government firmly believed that the Republic of China should rejoin the international community and take its rightful place at the United Nations. It therefore reiterated its support for the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

80. **Mr. Petrella** (Argentina) said that Argentina had supported General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had established the People's Republic of China as a permanent member of the Security Council in the interests of justice and in accordance with the principle of territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter and in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV). Argentina had been one of the first States to normalize diplomatic relations with the Government of the People's Republic of China and to recognize that Government as the only lawful representative of China and Taiwan as a part of China. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda and hoped that the issue would soon be resolved in the manner that would most benefit the Chinese people.

81. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan fully supported the determination of the Government and people of the People's Republic of China to safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity. It was his Government's position that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of the people of China, that Taiwan was a part of China and that the question of Taiwan was an internal matter which could be settled only by the Chinese Government and people. It therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

82. **Mr. Horoi** (Solomon Islands) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been a product of the cold war and of a mentality that no longer had a place in the United Nations. The resolution was remarkable in that it had expelled the Republic of China, a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the Security Council, without ever mentioning that country by name. Article 23 of the Charter continued to list the Republic of China as a permanent member of the Council, and no intellectual acrobatics could alter the fact that the People's Republic of China was not the Republic of China. In fact, resolution 2758 (XXVI) had expelled, not the Republic of China, but "the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek", who was long dead. In its 50 years of separation from the mainland, the Republic of China on Taiwan had become a vigorous democracy with a vibrant economy and a well-educated, prosperous population who were determined to protect their freedoms and human rights. It remained a force for economic stability in the region and a significant source of development assistance.

83. Refusal of the request to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) would violate the letter and spirit of the Charter and deny the nearly 22 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan the right to be represented in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It would make the peaceful reunification of the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China even more difficult and would ignore serious threats to the peace and security of the region posed not only by armed conflict but also by, for instance, serious health crises. Other General Assembly resolutions had been reviewed and revoked in whole or in part, and the General Committee should give the General

Assembly the opportunity to do the same at its fifty-third session.

84. **Mr. de Saram** (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka did not support the idea of "two Chinas" or the coexistence of two Chinese Governments. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had restored the lawful rights of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people and had finally allowed that country's millions of citizens to be represented at the United Nations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

85. **Mr. Saguier Caballero** (Paraguay) said that, under article 4 of the Charter, membership in the United Nations was open to all peace-loving States which accepted the obligations contained in the Charter and were able and willing to carry out those obligations. The Republic of China met the three criteria for statehood: it occupied territory, was inhabited by a population and had an independent Government. Furthermore, it had shown its willingness to engage in international cooperation. The Government of Paraguay therefore felt that item 166 had sufficient merit to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. It hoped that the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China would eventually resolve their differences and achieve reconciliation.

86. **Mr. Qadhe** (Iraq) said that the issue had been settled once and for all at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, when an overwhelming majority of Member States had established that there was one China and one Chinese State, the People's Republic of China. There was no justification for including item 166 in the agenda of the current session, and to do so would constitute flagrant interference in China's internal affairs and pose a threat to its territorial integrity. Discussing the issue repeatedly at each session of the General Committee was a waste of time. His Government supported the efforts of the People's Republic of China to resolve the issue in a peaceful manner that would enhance Chinese unity and safeguard peace and security in the region.

87. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that the existence of the Republic of China was a reality and that many States maintained various kinds of relations with that country. The United Nations had a duty to consider all issues that were potentially detrimental to international peace and security. Moreover, no situation was impervious to change and, at a time of United Nations reform, there was no reason not to consider a review of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His Government had great respect for the People's Republic of China and had no wish to violate the rights of any Member State. However, it hoped that the rights of the Republic of China on Taiwan would be recognized and that item 166 would be included in the agenda.

88. **Mr. Al-Awadi** (Kuwait) said that the issue of Taiwan's membership in the United Nations had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which clearly established the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representative of the Chinese people. Any attempt to include item 166 in the agenda would be in clear contradiction with that resolution and would constitute interference in that State's affairs.

89. **Mr. Chkheidze** (Georgia) said that, while his delegation had great respect for the delegations which had requested the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda, it felt that the General Committee should proceed on the understanding that the United Nations was an intergovernmental organization composed of Member States. His Government upheld the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China and was opposed to the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

90. *Mr. Petrella (Argentina), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Jagne (Gambia), Mr. Chkheidze (Georgia), Mr. Qadhe (Iraq), Mr. Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awadi (Kuwait), Mr. Rubadiri (Malawi), Mr. Saguier Caballero (Paraguay), Mr. Horoi (Solomon Islands), Mr. de Saram (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland) withdrew.*

91. **Mr. Macedo** (Mexico) said that his Government upheld the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China and saw no reason to question the validity of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation therefore categorically rejected the proposal to include item 166 in the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/BUR/53/SR.2

General Assembly
Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
4 December 1998

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 September 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Opertti (President of the General Assembly)

Contents

Organization of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Organization of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

Paragraph 47

1 **The Chairman** invited the Committee to continue its consideration of item 166 entitled "Need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 owing to the fundamental change in the international situation and to the coexistence of two Governments across the Taiwan Strait".

2. **Ms. Osode** (Liberia) said that her delegation could not ignore the reality of the existence of the Republic of China on Taiwan, which had once been a sovereign and equal State Member of the United Nations with all the rights that that implied, including full independence and territorial integrity.

3. It strongly supported the rights of the Republic of China, and believed that, as the nineteenth largest economy and fourteenth largest trading nation in the world, the Republic of China on Taiwan had the right to representation in the United Nations and the international community. As an official in its Ministry of Justice had said, to expect Taiwan to fulfil its responsibilities while denying it the right to participate in the work of the United Nations, even as an observer, was a mockery of human rights and justice.

4. As part of the effort to reform and restructure the United Nations, greater attention should be devoted to observing the principle of universality enshrined in the Charter through, *inter alia*, the restoration of the lawful rights of the Republic of China. Her delegation did not seek to interfere in the internal affairs of States and it welcomed the willingness of both sides to resume discussions on the reunification of China. However, it believed that the General Committee could not continue to ignore the request of the Republic of China, through its supporters, to enjoy, at the very least, observer status in the United Nations and its bodies, pending peaceful reunification. She noted that fairly recent precedents existed in that connection.

5. Finally, her delegation was disturbed at the injustice of excluding the Republic of China from membership in the World Health Organization (WHO). As a result, the people of Taiwan had been left without assistance in combating a viral epidemic which had attacked children and caused 52 deaths and complications in hundreds of cases. The moral and legal principles upheld by the international community must be applicable to all peoples on an equal basis.

6. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Chad, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Sao Tome and Principe had asked to participate in the discussion of item 166 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

7. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Haggar (Chad), Ms. Theodore (Dominica), Mr. Melendez (El Salvador), Mr. Millete (Grenada), Mr. Young (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe) took places at the Committee table.*

8. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Honduras, Italy, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nepal, Pakistan, Saint Lucia, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe had also asked to participate in the discussion of item 166. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to the requests.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mesdoua (Algeria), Mr. Ahmed (Bangladesh), Mr. Gubarevich (Belarus), Mr. Patriota (Brazil), Mr. Eguiguren (Chile), Mr. Pausa (Cuba), Mr. Zackheos (Cyprus), Mr. Bogoreh (Djibouti), Mr. Noor (Egypt), Mr. Gutierez (Honduras), Mr. Politi (Italy), Mr. Adawa (Kenya), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. Matri (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Shah (Nepal), Mr. Kamal (Pakistan), Mr. Hunte (Saint Lucia), Mr. Erwa (Sudan), Mr. Dogani (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. Mapuranga (Zimbabwe) took places at the Committee table.*

11. **Mr. Ferreira** (Sao Tome and Principe) recalled that the decision embodied in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), to force the Republic of China, one of the founding Members of the United Nations, out of the United Nations, denied the right of international representation to over 21.8 million people and contravened the principle of universality enshrined in the Charter.

12. The language of the resolution, which reflected the cold-war mentality, was outdated. The current reality was that the Republic of China on Taiwan was a democratic country with a strong economy and active commercial ties with most of the States Members of the United Nations. His delegation therefore called for a review of resolution 2758 (XXVI).

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13. The practice of parallel representation was not an obstacle to reunification, as illustrated by the situations of Germany and Yemen, and could be beneficial to both sides in the Chinese negotiations. The readmission of the Republic of China on Taiwan would not pose a challenge to any of the Organization's Member States; indeed, the peaceful coexistence of the two sides within the United Nations could be a catalyst to ending one of the greatest and most enduring sources of instability in Asia.

14. **Mr. Gutierez** (Honduras) said that Honduras joined other peace-loving States which, in the interest of international security and the harmonious and peaceful coexistence of peoples, desired the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly. That position should in no way be construed as an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of any State.

15. **Mr. Hunte** (Saint Lucia) said that his delegation supported a one-China policy predicated on respect for sovereignty. Recent developments, such as the return of Hong Kong, had reinforced that principle. It therefore upheld General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which definitively established the nature and legitimacy of China's representation at the United Nations.

16. **Ms. Theodore** (Dominica) said that, for the past several years, her delegation had been among those which had pleaded for consideration of a process that would lead to the readmission of the Republic of China on Taiwan, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, paragraphs 1 and 6, of the Charter of the United Nations. Any consideration of the question of the Republic of China must be based on the concept of sovereign equality, in recognition of the fact that, for several decades, the Government had exercised legitimate authority over the geographical area inhabited by its citizens. Its statehood had been internationally recognized and it met all the prerequisites for membership set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. The rejection of the principle of universality had resulted in the inequitable situation of the Republic of China as a non-member State having to fulfil obligations imposed on it by the United Nations. She deplored the determined and well-orchestrated effort to deny equal status to the Republic of China, which had originated with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

17. Given the profound changes that had occurred in the international community, her delegation believed that a reappraisal of the status of the Republic of China on Taiwan was in order, beginning with a review of resolution 2758 (XXVI). As long as that resolution determined the representation of China at the United Nations, the Republic of China on Taiwan would remain in a state of inequality, which would be detrimental not only to its own citizens but also to the international community at large. Requests for the readmission of the Republic of China on Taiwan had originally been submitted by small States, namely, those which were in a position to understand the injustice suffered by the Republic of China. Recently, however, they had been joined by other members of the international community, including the European Parliament in 1996.

18. **Mr. Haggar** (Chad) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had not achieved its sponsors' aims of annihilating the authority of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Under unfavourable circumstances, Taiwan had managed to safeguard its independence and maintain its territorial integrity. His delegation was among those which had requested the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda, in the hope of redressing the unjust situation brought about by the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI).

19. The Republic of China on Taiwan satisfied the conditions for membership in the United Nations and its Government was prepared to fulfil the obligations flowing from the Charter. It must be permitted to participate in the work of the United Nations. His delegation urged the United Nations to respect the principle of universal participation, which had been the basis for the admission of other countries to the Organization.

20. **Mr. Young** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that there was a clear-cut need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), owing to the fundamental changes that were taking place in the international situation and the fact that two Governments coexisted across the Taiwan Strait. Noting that the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany had both been Members of the United Nations before their unification and the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were currently Member States, he urged the readmission of the Republic of China on Taiwan in order to promote the peaceful reunification of the two Chinas. Effective participation in the United Nations and other international organizations was a fundamental right embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 2 of which prohibited discrimination on the basis of political, jurisdictional or international status, and yet the people living in Taiwan continued to be excluded from the United Nations system.

21. In the context of globalization, a major health problem in the Republic of China on Taiwan would pose a threat to the entire world. He wondered whether WHO was prepared to ignore that danger, or whether the Security Council would

have the authority to intervene should Taiwan decide to carry out nuclear testing.

22. A population of 21 million people in a prosperous democracy should be entitled, at the very least, to a discussion of their circumstances. The annual ritual that continued to prevent even a debate on the issue was irrational and unenlightened. It was unreasonable to claim that resolution 2758 (XXVI) could not be revisited when the Charter — which, ironically enough, still listed the Republic of China as a permanent member of the Security Council — was itself being reviewed. For all of those reasons, his delegation supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

23. **Mr. Duarte** (Nicaragua) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan had been unjustly expelled from the United Nations and denied its right to participate in the deliberations of the Organization and other organizations of the United Nations system. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), a reflection of the cold-war ideology, should be reviewed. The participation of the Republic of China in the United Nations would increase communication and contact between the two Chinas, which would help to achieve regional stability.

24. Those Member States which had requested the inclusion of the item in the agenda, including Nicaragua, recognized the sovereign equality between the Republic of China on Taiwan and their own States; on that basis, it should be readmitted as a State Member of the United Nations. The full participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the debates of the United Nations would contribute to the achievement of progress in such areas as the environment, drug control, arms trafficking and disarmament.

25. **Mr. Egurguren** (Chile) said that the question of the representation of China had been resolved in 1971 with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation therefore did not support the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

26. **Mr. Millette** (Grenada) said that change was a dynamic and beneficial process in societies and, now, in the United Nations as it underwent reform. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had been adopted at a time when the geopolitical structure of the world was quite different, should be re-examined in that context. His delegation supported the principles of self-determination, democracy, justice, free speech and respect for human rights. On the basis of those principles, the case for the readmission of the Republic of China on Taiwan was compelling.

27. The economic achievements of the Republic of China on Taiwan and its willingness to participate in the international community as a member of the United Nations were well known. The Republic of China on Taiwan had contributed to the international community and was continuing to do so. While his delegation did not seek to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, it supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

28. **Mr. Dogani** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) was still valid, and that any attempt to inscribe the additional item on the agenda would only serve to undermine the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China. Tanzania therefore opposed the request under discussion and urged the General Committee to reject it.

29. **Mr. Zackheos** (Cyprus) said that his delegation opposed the inclusion of proposed agenda item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third General Assembly because Cyprus respected the principle of sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of States as expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, and because the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled definitively by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

30. **Mr. Shah** (Nepal) said that his delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda because the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled definitively by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Consideration of the proposed item by the General Assembly would constitute an interference in the internal affairs of a Member State, and would also undermine the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

31. **Mr. Mra** (Myanmar) said that Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations stipulated that the United Nations and its Member States should refrain from intervening in matters which were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had expressly recognized the representatives of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of China. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between his country and the People's Republic of China, his Government had always recognized that country on the basis of the existence of only one China, of which Taiwan was a part. The question of Taiwan was an internal matter for the Chinese people to decide among themselves. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

32. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively resolved the question of China's representation in the United Nations and related bodies. Any reconsideration of the issue could only harm the spirit and letter of that resolution. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

33. **Mr. Matri** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had reaffirmed that the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people, and had therefore settled the question of their representation in the United Nations. Inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda would violate the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States as enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation therefore strongly opposed its inclusion in the agenda.

34. **Mr. Gubarevich** (Belarus) said that his delegation strongly supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China. As an integral part of China and not a sovereign State, Taiwan could not be admitted to the United Nations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

35. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) reaffirmed his delegation's position that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) represented the definitive solution to the question of China's representation in the United Nations.

36. **Mr. Bogoreh** (Djibouti) said that in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the international community had decided that there was only one China, of which Taiwan was an inalienable part. He therefore urged the Committee not to include the proposed item in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

37. **Mr. Fedotov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation strongly supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China, and that there were no grounds for including the proposed item in the agenda.

38. **Mr. Politi** (Italy) said that the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled definitively by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

39. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that any attempt to create "two Chinas" would be a distortion of the true state of affairs and a waste of time. He reiterated his delegation's support for the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representative of China, and said that it could not agree to the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

40. **Mr. Ahmed** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation continued to believe that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively resolved the question of the representation of China in the United Nations. Accordingly, it did not support inclusion of the item in the agenda.

41. **Mr. Asadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his Government considered the People's Republic of China to be the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people, and it therefore did not support the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

42. **Mr. Enkhsaikan** (Mongolia) said that there was no compelling reason for including the item in the agenda, as General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had restored the lawful right of the People's Republic of China to represent the Chinese people at the United Nations. Inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda would contradict political reality as well as the principled decision taken when that resolution had been passed.

43. **Mr. Mesdoua** (Algeria) said that his delegation fully supported General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had definitively settled the question of the representation of China at the United Nations. He therefore urged the General Committee not to include the item in the agenda.

44. **Mr. Pausa** (Cuba) said that the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations, and no circumstances existed to warrant review of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

45. **Mr. Melendez-Barahona** (El Salvador) said that his Government wished to affirm its support for the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the question of the representation of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, but had disregarded the fact that two separate Governments and political systems had existed across the Taiwan Strait since 1949, a reality that persisted in 1998. His delegation believed that an injustice had been committed in 1971 when the people of Taiwan had been denied representation in the United Nations system.

46. His delegation's support for the proposal should not be considered an interference in internal affairs, or an attempt to obstruct the peaceful reunification of China, because any decision on that matter must be taken

exclusively by the Chinese people themselves, including those in the Republic of China. However, on the basis of the principles of justice and democracy, the tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recent political developments in the international sphere, his delegation believed that the 22 million inhabitants of Taiwan deserved support, and represented a political reality that the international community could not continue to ignore. Until the process of reunification was complete, the United Nations had an obligation to consider the desire of the Republic of China for representation in that Organization.

47. **Mr. Erwa** (Sudan) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had already decisively judged the issue. To change that would be a violation of the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China, the only legitimate Government representing all of China, including Taiwan. His Government upheld the principle of one China and looked forward to the peaceful unification of China as the People's Republic of China. The Hong Kong experience was the best proof of the success of the policy of one country, two systems. His delegation rejected the proposal to include item 166 in the agenda.

48. **Mr. Mapuranga** (Zimbabwe) said that neither changes in the world situation nor any other argument could justify the dismemberment of a Member State of the United Nations. The so-called Republic of China was the Chinese province of Taiwan. His delegation was not in favour of the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.

49. **Mr. Noor** (Egypt) said that the issue under consideration had been discussed and decided in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate representative of the Chinese people and his delegation therefore opposed inclusion of the item.

50. **Mr. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that his delegation supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China and held that there was no need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 on the agenda.

51. **Mr. Witschel** (Germany) said that his delegation supported the one China policy and felt that there was no need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The question of item 166 should be handled in the same way as it had been in previous years.

52. **Mr. Al-Sindi** (Yemen) said that his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of item 166 for the reasons already mentioned by other delegations. The People's Republic of China was the only representative of the Chinese people.

53. **Mr. Kerpens** (Suriname) said that his Government supported the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations and did not consider it appropriate to reopen the question. He opposed the inclusion of item 166 on the agenda.

54. **Mr. Acemah** (Uganda) said that the changes in the international situation over the past 27 years did not warrant any review of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The question of Taiwan was an internal affair of the Chinese Government and reopening the question would be an interference with the internal affairs of a Member State of the United Nations. His delegation did not support the inclusion of item 166.

55. **Mr. Chaouachi** (Tunisia) said that his delegation supported the policy of one China; the question of its representation in the United Nations had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Item 166 should not be included in the agenda of the General Assembly.

56. **Mr. Mpay** (Cameroon) said that his delegation supported the Government of the People's Republic of China in defending its independence and sovereignty over all Chinese land. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) should not be reviewed.

57. **Mr. Adawa** (Kenya) said that his Government upheld the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people, and rejected the proposal to include item 166 on the agenda.

58. **Mr. Mangoaelel** (Lesotho) said that his delegation was opposed to the proposal to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). There was only one China, and its capital was Beijing. The fiction that the administration in Taiwan was the representative of the Chinese people had been debunked by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of item 166 on the agenda.

59. **Mr. Kamal** (Pakistan) said that the discussion on the inclusion of item 166 was a waste of time. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of the representation of the Chinese people; the General Committee must bury the issue once and for all and concentrate on more important problems. His delegation opposed the inclusion of item 166 on the agenda and hoped the matter would not be discussed again.

60. *The Committee decided not to recommend the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.*

61. *Mr. Mesdoua (Algeria), Mr. Ahmed (Bangladesh), Mr. Gubarevich (Belarus), Mr. Patriota (Brazil), Mr. Haggar (Chad), Mr. Eguiguren (Chile), Mr. Pausa (Cuba), Mr.*

Zackheos (Cyprus), Mr. Bogoreh (Djibouti), Ms. Theodore (Dominica), Mr. Noor (Egypt), Mr. Melendez (El Salvador), Mr. Millete (Grenada), Mr. Gutierez (Honduras), Mr. Politi (Italy), Mr. Adawa (Kenya), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. Matri (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Shah (Nepal), Mr. Kamal (Pakistan), Mr. Hunte (Saint Lucia), Mr. Young (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe), Mr. Erwa (Sudan), Mr. Dogani (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. Mapuranga (Zimbabwe) withdrew.

Item 168

62. **The Chairman** pointed out that item 168 had already been dealt with at the previous meeting.

Items 169 to 171

63. *The Committee decided to recommend the inclusion of items 169 to 171 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Section V. Allocation of items

Paragraph 48

64. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 48 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1 and Add.1), which stated that the allocation of items was based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly for those items in previous years. The General Committee might wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401, paragraph 5 of the annex to Assembly resolution 39/88 B, paragraph 6 of the annex to Assembly resolution 45/45, paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I to resolution 48/264, as well as paragraph 24 of the annex to resolution 51/241 concerning the allocation and clustering of items.

65. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the above-mentioned paragraphs.*

Paragraph 49

66. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 49 of document A/BUR/53/1 and Add.1, which listed the items of the draft agenda that had not been considered previously by the General Assembly, and suggested that the Committee should pronounce itself on the recommendation that it should make regarding the allocation of those items recommended for inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-third session.

67. *It was so decided.*

Items 160, 161, 162 and 165

68. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 160, 161, 162 and 165 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Item 167

69. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 167 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

Item 168

70. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 168 should be considered directly in plenary meeting, as a sub-item of item 46.*

Item 169

71. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 169 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Paragraph 50 (Item 10 of the draft agenda)

72. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General should make a brief presentation of his annual report on the work of the Organization on Monday, 21 September, as the first item in the morning prior to the opening of the general debate.*

Paragraph 51 (Item 12 of the draft agenda)

73. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the various parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council should be allocated in accordance with the suggestions made by the Secretary-General.*

74. **Mr. Rosenstock** (United States of America) pointed out that chapter VI of the report of the Economic and Social Council, which had been allocated to plenary meetings and the Third Committee, contained components which might also usefully be discussed in the Second Committee. If that was permissible, his delegation would not insist on an amendment; otherwise, it would prefer to see the allocation to be the Plenary, the Second Committee and the Third Committee.

Paragraph 52 (Item 18 of the draft agenda)

75. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that all the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to specific Territories should be referred*

to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), thus enabling the Assembly to deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.

Paragraph 53 (Items 46 and 113 (b) of the draft agenda)

76. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the ceremony for the awarding of human rights prizes should be held on Thursday, 10 December 1998, on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*

Paragraph 54 (Item 49 of the draft agenda)

77. *In view of the procedure followed at previous sessions, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should consider the item directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.*

Paragraph 55 (Item 63 of the draft agenda)

78. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated at an appropriate time during the session.*

Paragraph 56 (Item 72 of the draft agenda)

79. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject matter of item 72 should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of that item.*

Paragraph 57 (Item 86 of the draft agenda)

80. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the commemorative meeting to pay tribute to all who had served in peacekeeping operations, especially those who had lost their lives under the United Nations flag during the past 50 years, should be held on Tuesday, 6 October 1998, in the morning.*

Paragraph 58 (Item 96 (d) of the draft agenda)

81. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the high-level dialogue on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications should be held on 17 and 18 September 1998.*

Paragraph 59 (Item 102 of the draft agenda)

82. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should be held on 7 October 1998 in the morning.*

Paragraph 60 (Item 106 of the draft agenda)

83. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 98 of the draft agenda.*

Paragraph 61 (Allocation of the items of the draft agenda)

Items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting

84. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting, including items 160 to 162, 165, 168 and 169 and excluding item 62 (The situation in Burundi) and item 63 (Question of Cyprus), should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

Items proposed for consideration by the First Committee

85. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the First Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

86. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fourth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee, taking into account its decisions on the items entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" and "Question of East Timor".*

Items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee

87. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee

88. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee

89. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee

90. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.